

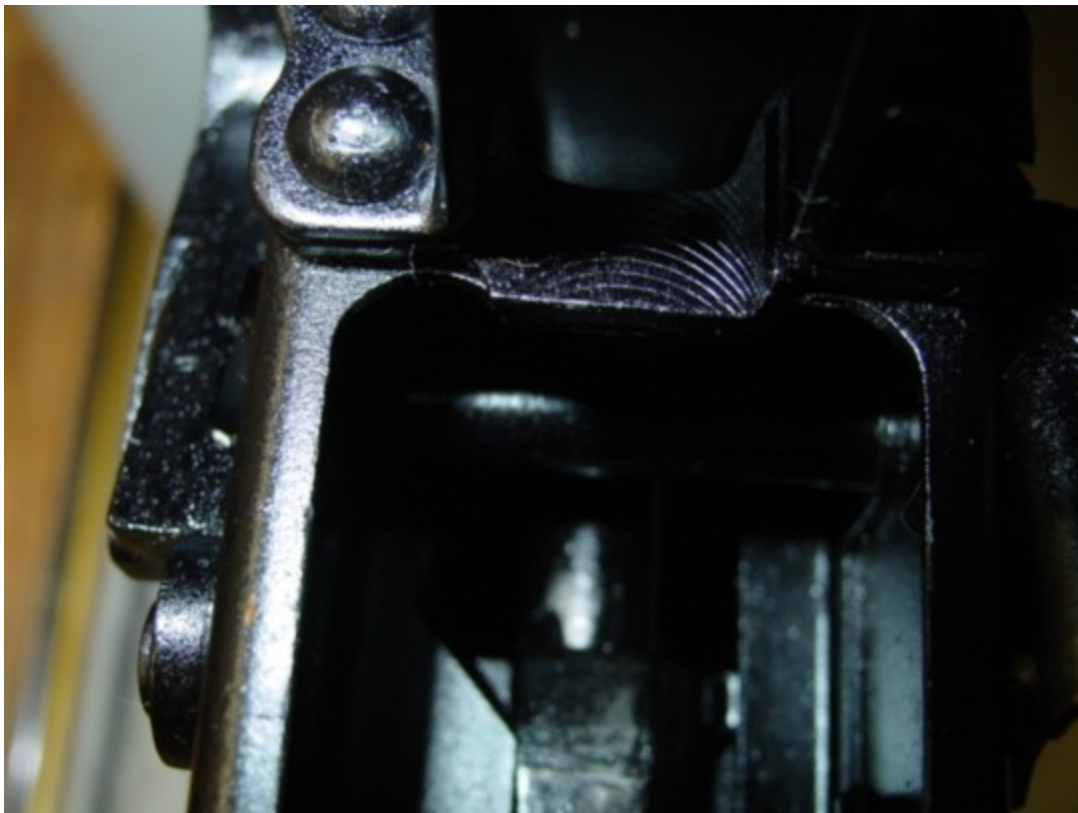
# High Capacity Magazines: .223 Cal.

What follows are the modifications that I made to East German **"Wieger"** mags so that they will fit and function in the Saiga .223 rifle. The Wieger mags are the most reliable in the Saiga .223 Cal.

The contents of this post are for informational purposes only. Any modifications that a reader may perform are done so solely at the reader's risk. The author has no control over the reader's tools, skills, abilities, and experience and assumes no liability whatsoever for any damages if a reader chooses to perform the same modifications. Compliance with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations are the responsibility of the reader, especially 922r requirements.

Modified Wieger mags require a feed ramp or bullet guide installed in the .223 Saiga rifle in order to function. Once the guide is installed, the polymer factory mags will not fit in the mag well.

The first modification required is to remove a bit of the receiver sheet metal at the rear of the mag well, just under the mag catch. On a factory-issued .223 Saiga there is a bit of the receiver sheetmetal about 5/8" wide that projects forward about 1/16" into the mag well opening:



Strip out the hammer and trigger/disconnector parts, block the mag catch rearward, and grind/file the projection so that the rear of the mag well opening is straight across:



Next, remove the floorplate, spring, and follower from the mag(s) and file down the top forward edges of the mag feed lips by about 1.5 mm to 2.0 mm (approx. 0.060" to 0.080"). I recommend filing as opposed to power grinding so that you can feel-and-try to "sneak up" on a good, snug fit with no wobble:



**The mag on the left has been filed, while the mag on the right hasn't.** Notice the slight difference... the filed mags follower sticks up just a little higher.





Just file and test, file again and test again. It won't take long.

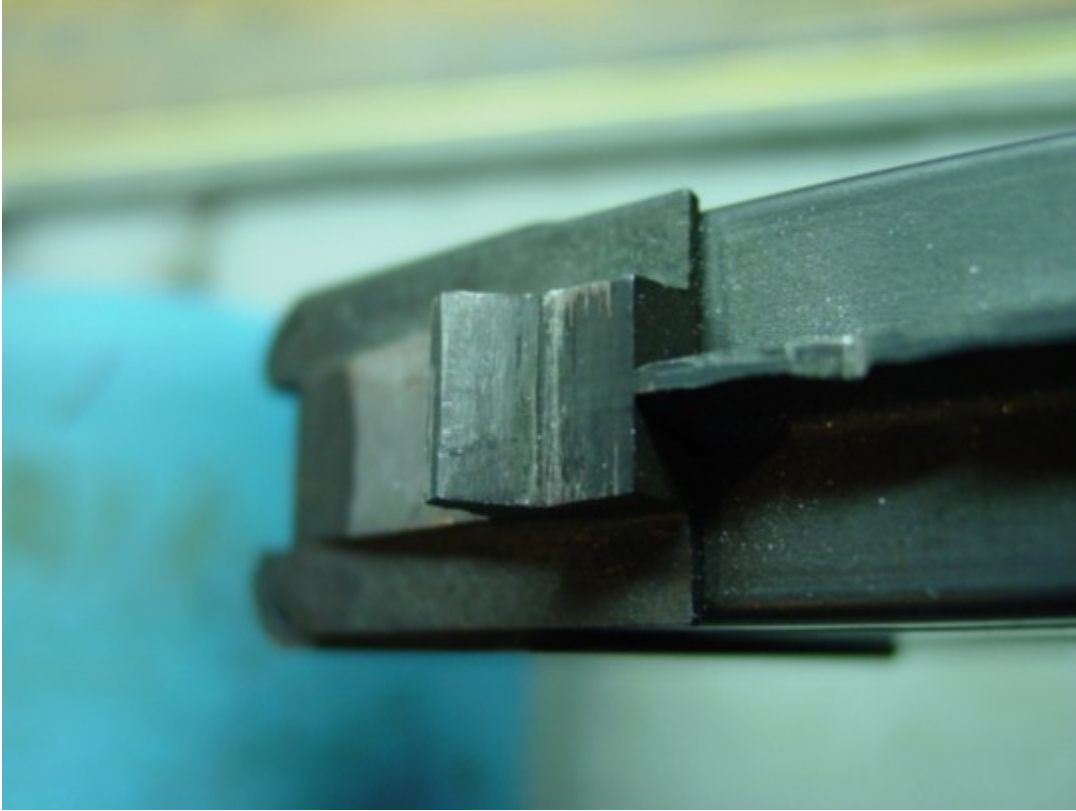
Next, file the "ramp" above the mag catch at the top rear of the mag ONLY AS NEEDED. You might have to take just a few thousandths off, or maybe as much as 1

mm to 1.5 mm depending on your individual rifle. Use a small file (4" to 6") so that the 90-degree angle between the "ramp" and the top of the mag catch tang is filed sharp:



Likewise, you may have to dress off the underside of the mag catch tang, taking perhaps nothing to maybe 0.5 mm (0 to 0.020") off:





Allow about 30 to 60 minutes for filing the first mag, and after that it takes maybe only 10 to 15 mins per mag. You may have to remove a bit more metal from any of the places mentioned, but by taking your time you can get a really good fit without wobble.

The Wieger mags also generally require the installation of a **feed ramp** or "bullet guide" on the curved floor of the trunnion directly beneath the chamber opening in the rear of the barrel. Your rifle may or may not FTF without the feed ramp. These are available from K-Var as a 5.45 "Bullet Guide" for \$10, last I looked. There is a circular projection on the underside of the bullet guide that must be ground off, and a "wing" at the left side of the guide that interferes with a rivet in the left side of the Saiga trunnion. Either grind off the rivet flush or cut off the wing. You can choose from drilling and tapping the trunnion floor and drilling and countersinking the bullet guide to accept a flathead screw, or you can drill a hole in the bullet guide floor (drill out the "circle") and "plug" weld the guide with a MIG unit, or you can use acetone to degrease the trunnion and guide and use JB Weld, but it may not be as permanent as either of the other two options. **THE BULLET GUIDE MUST BE CENTERED ON THE FLOOR OF THE TRUNNION.**

Alternatively you can cut a curved section of 3/4 steel pipe to fit the curved bottom of the trunnion and fasten it in the same manner. After installing the bullet guide/feed ramp, you may have to Dremel-grind any high spots that may interfere with the bolt travel. Sorry no pics of the bullet guide installation, but here's a shot of a guide already installed (in an SAR-2):



Note the slight chamfer at the bottom edge of the chamber opening to facilitate the bullet nose travel into the chamber.